

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 17-25 of the specification with the following paragraph:

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In an alternative embodiment, the optical coupler 23 may not include the convex lens 63 or the cylindrical lens 23 75. It should also be noted that, instead of the stationary mirror, an optical fiber, connected to the laser 21 at one end, can be used to deliver the laser beam to the scanner assembly 25. In another embodiment, an output end of the optical fiber can be configured to scan the capillaries by a mechanical device such that the laser beam from the optical fiber is delivered directly to the capillaries.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 22 of the specification and ending on page 10, line 7 with the following paragraph:

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Within the housing 29, a capillary mount 41 is provided to place the capillaries thereon. The capillary mount 41 has a sloped surface upon which the capillaries are placed. The slope is preferably 45°. The capillary mount 41 also includes a chamber 45 43 defined therein. In turn, the chamber 43 has an opening 39. The line of windows 37 of the capillaries are aligned with the opening 39 when the capillaries are placed on the capillary mount 41. As mentioned above, the light beam from the scanner assembly 25 is illuminated on the line of windows 37 of the capillaries. A portion of the laser beam is dissipated in illuminating the capillaries and samples therein. However, some portion of the laser beam passes through the capillaries. This portion of the laser beam enters the chamber 43. The chamber 43 is configured to capture the laser beam entered thereto. Note that without the chamber 43, the laser beam passing through the capillaries may be reflected toward the detection system 27, thereby interfering with detection and resulting in less than optimal performance.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 32 and ending on page 13, line 18 with the following paragraph:

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Subsequently, the oscillation of the scanning mirror 69 is controlled by the control device 70. For example, as the scanning mirror is oscillated in the direction to illuminate the periphery capillaries, the scanning mirror can be controlled to oscillate at a slow speed. Further, as the scanning mirror is oscillated in the direction to illuminate the center capillaries, the scanning mirror can be controlled to oscillate at a faster speed. In other words, the scanning mirror aims the laser beam at the capillaries located at the periphery of the array for longer time than the capillaries located at the center of the array. Therefore, the periphery capillaries are illuminated more than the central capillaries. In another embodiment, the intensity of the laser beam can be adjusted as well such that a higher intensity laser beam illuminates the periphery capillaries than the central capillaries. More specifically, as the scanning mirror aims the laser beam at the periphery capillaries, the output power of the laser is increased; and as the scanning mirror aims the laser beam at the central capillaries, the output power of the laser is decreased.

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